

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00805 061759Z

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SUBJECT: LETTERS FROM SPOKESMAN OF IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS

1. "IRISH PRESS" MAY 5 CONTAINS LETTER FROM DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN, WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS. FULL TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS.

"AS INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS AND THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME APPEARS AS WRITER OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DISTURBING TO DR. CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN, MINISTER FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, IT IS MY DISPATCH TO RESPOND TO THE MINISTER THROUGH THE COURTESY OF YOUR NEWSPAPER.

"CONCERN OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE CAUCUS HAS EMANATED FROM BOTH LONDON AND DUBLIN AFTER UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF THE CAUCUS BY THE 20 MILLION MEMBER AFL-CIO AND THE MILLIONS OF MEMBERS OF 36 IRISH-AMERICAN ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE UNITED STATES. AN INDIVIDUAL LIKE DR. CRUISE O'BRIEN IS DISREGARDED BY THE IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, BUT HIS CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE NORTH OF THE BORDER IN IRELAND IS PITIED.

"COMPARING ONE OF THE GREATEST AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYERS, PAUL O'DWYER, WITH HITLER IS THE STATEMENT OF AN IMBECILE. MR. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00805 061759Z

O'DWYER'S CONCERN FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE IS PROMULGATED BY THE

IRISH GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF COMPASSION TO BRUTALITY AND THEIR OWN DEPREDATIONS.

"THE MINISTER DID NOT REMAIN IN THE STATES LONG. THE DOCTOR COULD NOT DRAW ON IRISH-AMERICAN AUDIENCES TO HEAR HIS IRRATIONAL THEORIES. BUT WE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME ANY VISIT HE MIGHT MAKE TO THE STATES AND ENCOURAGE HIS OBLITEROUS HARANGUES THAT FACILITATE OUR 'PROPAGANDA' EFFORT. THE IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY DOES NOT FEAR HIS SHALLOW WORDS NOR HIS SHALLOW CONSCIENCE. DR. O'BRIEN MUST HAVE FEARED THE VISIT OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN MARIO BIAGGI BECAUSE HE CENSORED THE CONGRESSMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARALLEL FASHION TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S DENIAL OF MR. BIAGGI'S REQUEST TO VISIT THE PORTLAOISE FACILITY.

"MY RESPONSE TO DR. O'BRIEN'S LETTER WAS GIVEN AT THE SINN FEIN PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY (4/3/75). THE CAUCUS HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM FIVE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE NORTH WHEN 12 ASSASSINATIONS TOOK PLACE. THE STATED KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE IRISH SPECIAL BRANCH WERE IN THE AREA AND THE PEOPLE SUSPECTED THEM. IRISH AUTHORITIES IN THE STATES WERE ASKED TO CONFIRM OR DENY. THEY REFUSED WITH INDIGNATION.

"ONE MUST THEN MAKE A CONCLUSION ON THE FACTS AVAILABLE AND CONCLUDE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD INDISCRETIONS TO CONCEAL, A TACTIC WE IN THE STATES ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH IN THE SHADOW OF WATERGATE. ALSO, DR. O'BRIEN DID NOT HIMSELF DENY THE FACTS. SIGNED: DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN, IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS, 1025 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NEW YORK."

2. "IRISH TIMES" MAY 6 CONTAINS ARTICLE BASED ON LETTER RECEIVED FROM SAME PERSON. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

"THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DR. O'BRIEN, HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF CENSORING AN AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN FROM RADIO AND TELEVISION, IN A LETTER TO 'THE IRISH TIMES' FROM THE INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS.

"THE DIRECTOR, DR. FRED BURNS O'BRIEN, SAID THAT LAST NOVEMBER AND LAST MONTH TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN MADE FACT-FINDING TOURS TO IRELAND AT THE REQUEST OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS AND IN EACH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00805 061759Z

INSTANCE THEY WERE 'CENSORED FROM THE AIRWAVES" BY THE MINISTER. "THE SAME DR. O'BRIEN WAS GIVEN FULL ACCESS TO U.S. MEDIA IN HIS VISIT OF APRIL, 1975, AND WE WOULD NOT THINK OF CENSORING HIM REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH WE DISAGREED WITH HIS VIEWS.'

"A SPOKESMAN FOR R.T.E. SAID YESTERDAY THAT THEY HAD REPORTED A NEWS CONFERENCE GIVEN LAST WEEK BY THE CONGRESSMAN, MR. MARIO BIAGGI. MR. BIAGGI HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED FOR NORMAL NEWS REASONS,

AND NOT BECAUSE OF THE SECTION 31 DIRECTIVE, HE ADDED.

"DR. BURNS O'BRIEN WROTE THAT THE PENDING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE SOUTH AS WELL AS THE NORTH. 'FROM REACTION TO THE RECENT VISIT OF A U.S. CONGRESSMAN AND RELATED ACTIVITY, IT IS CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESENT FREE STATE GOVERNMENT IS A CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT AND CONCERN FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE FREE STATE WILL PROMPT CONGRESSIONAL EVALUATION.'

"HE ADDED THAT MR. BIAGGI COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT CONDITIONS IN PORTLAOISE PRISON WERE AS BAD AS HAD BEEN ALLEGED BY FORMER PRISONERS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD REFUSED HIS REQUEST TO VISIT THE JAIL. HE WAS APPALLED TO FIND THAT THE 'SOUTHERN STATLET' HAD LEGISLATION THAT INCARCERATED POLITICAL PRISONERS, HE SAID, AND AGREED WITH THE CAUCUS THAT ONE COULD NOT STAND BY IDLY WHEN SUCH LEGISLATION VIOLATED THE CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE."
REND AHL

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